



**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF IDAHO**

Honorable Jim D. Pappas
Chief Bankruptcy Judge

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Idaho's Bankruptcy Attorneys

FROM: Chief Judge Pappas

SUBJECT: Regional Discussion Groups

DATE: May 3, 2000

I was delighted to hear of the efforts of your colleagues in organizing and implementing regional bankruptcy law discussion groups in Boise, Coeur d' Alene, Moscow, Twin Falls, Pocatello and Idaho Falls. I understand that these groups will meet informally, usually monthly for lunch, to review news and information of interest to bankruptcy attorneys, to exchange ideas, and to perhaps commiserate about the many challenges in the practice of bankruptcy law in this era of competitive legal economics.

I wanted to commend those organizing and participating in these groups, and to recommend that all others get involved. The groups are important for several reasons.

First, a discussion forum of this type is an excellent means of keeping current on new developments in the bankruptcy courts, and as you have undoubtedly noticed, there are vast changes in the law looming on the horizon. If (or when) Congress enacts sweeping bankruptcy "reform," local discussion groups will represent an important source of information about the new law. The groups can also keep lawyers informed of case law developments at the local, circuit and national levels. Since the Bankruptcy Section can meet only a couple of times per year, and since professional seminars can be expensive, local groups can serve an important educational function.

Second, Judge Myers and I anticipate that these groups will be a source of much constructive advice to the Court and its staff concerning needed changes in calendars, procedures, and case management. As major consumers of the services provided by the Court, the opinions of the Bar are important and will be taken seriously.

Finally, I am confident that regional discussion forums will promote collegiality and professionalism in the Bar. My impression is that Idaho's lawyers, and especially the bankruptcy attorneys, genuinely like and respect one another. This attitude, if cultivated, can spill over into day-to-day relationships and contacts, and result in less contentious, time-consuming and expensive litigation. When lawyers get along, all benefit. Knowing those involved, I anticipate that the meetings will be cordial, even fun.

The judges understand that these are lawyers groups, and that's the way it should be, if frank and objective discussion of the law and other matters are to be encouraged. However, with the permission of your group leaders, Judge Myers and I will endeavor to visit with each group periodically to solicit your opinions on relevant subjects. In addition, we have committed to such Court resources as we may have available (meeting rooms, informational and educational materials, electronic noticing for meetings, etc.) to your use. Please let us know if we can help in other ways.

We encourage all Idaho bankruptcy attorneys to participate, and wish you all much success in your efforts. We appreciate your dedication to improving the practice of bankruptcy law in this District. I understand that information about local groups, including meeting dates/times and locations, can be obtained from the following lawyers:

Ken Anderson – Coeur D' Alene and Moscow

Joe Meier – Boise

Dick Greenwood and Brent Robinson – Twin Falls/Magic Valley

Dan Green – Pocatello

Fred Adams – Idaho Falls